

10/800,576

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9 and 12 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Nitsche '502. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, the subject matter of claim 7 is incorporated into claims 8 and 10 and both of those claims are now amended to be independent claims. In view of such amendment, independent claims 8 and 10 are now believed to be allowable. As claims 9 and 11 both depend from independent claim 8, those dependent claims are also believed to be allowable. As new claims 16 and 17 both depend from independent claim 10, those dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

In addition, the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 8 is also incorporated into independent claim 12 and that amended independent claim is now believed to be allowable. As new claims 13-15 each depend from independent claim 12, those dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art of Nitsche '502 is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

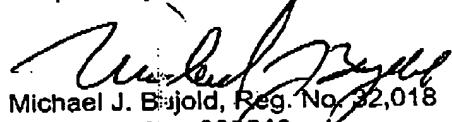
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018
Customer No. 020210
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.
Fourth Floor
500 North Commercial Street
Manchester NH 03101-1151
Telephone 603-624-9220
Facsimile 603-624-9229
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com